

The following table as based on recommendations by Monica Pokorny, NRCS Plant Materials Specialist, Bozeman, Stuart Jennings, KC Harvey Environmental, a farmer trial, and Clain Jones' observations. Seed a mix of 2-5 species and include a legume. To help select species adapted to given site characteristics, look at the Plant Guides produced by the USDA NRCS Plant Materials Program <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/> or Technical Notes produced by the USDA NRCS Bridger Plant Materials Center <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/west/mtpmc/>.

Acid-tolerance of forage species

Common name	Scientific name	Cultivar(s)	Acid tolerance ¹	Suitable sites	Native (N) Introduced (I)
Perennial grasses observed to be good to excellent on at least one acidic agricultural soil in MT. *variety observed.					
brome, meadow	<i>Bromus biebersteinii</i>	Cache*, Fleet*, Regar, Paddock	Marginal – Excellent		I
orchardgrass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Paiute*, Pennlate*	Fair - Excellent		I
wheatgrass, intermediate	<i>Thinopyrum intermedium</i>	Oahe*, Reliant, Manifest, Rush*	Marginal - Excellent		I
wheatgrass, slender	<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	Copperhead, Pryor*, Revenue	Marginal - Good	Dry	N
wheatgrass, western	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Rosana*, Rodan	Marginal - Good		N
wheatgrass, hybrid	<i>Elytr. repens x Pseudo. spicata</i>	NewHy*	Good		I
Perennial grasses' acid tolerance based in part on performance in mine-land reclamation site soils. Some of these may not be competitive in species mixes with aggressive introduced species.					
bentgrass, creeping	<i>Atrostis stolonifera</i>		Good	Moist	I
bentgrass, redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>		Good	Moist	I
bluegrass, big	<i>Poa secunda (P. ampla)</i>	Sherman	Marginal - Excellent		N
bluegrass, Canby	<i>Poa secunda (P. canbyi)</i>	Canbar	Poor - Good		N
bluegrass, Kentucky	<i>Poa pratensis</i>		Marginal - Excellent		I
bluegrass, Nevada	<i>Poa secunda (P. nevadensis)</i>	Opportunity	Good	Dry	N
bluestem, little	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Badlands, Blaze	Average - Excellent		N
brome, fringed	<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>		Good	Dry	N
brome, smooth	<i>Bromus inermis</i>		Average - Good	Dry	I
fescue, hard	<i>Festuca brevipila</i>	Durar	Average - Good		I
fescue, sheep	<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Covar	Average - Good	Dry	I
foxtail, creeping	<i>Alopecurus arundinaceus</i>	Garrison, Retain	Average	Moist	I
foxtail, meadow	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>		Average	Moist	I
hairgrass, tufted	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>		Excellent	Moist	N
switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Dacotah, Forestburg	Good - Excellent	Dry	N
timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>		Average - Good		I
wheatgrass, beardless/bluebunch	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Whitmar, Goldar, Anatone, P7	Poor - Fair	Dry	N
wheatgrass, streambank	<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> spp. <i>riparium</i>	Sodar	Poor - Good		N
wheatgrass, tall	<i>Thinopyrum ponticum</i>	Alkar, Jose	Poor - Fair		I

wheatgrass, thickspike	<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> spp. <i>lanceolatus</i>	Critana, Bannock	Poor - Good		N
wildrye, Altai	<i>Elymus angustus</i>		Poor - Good		I
wildrye, basin	<i>Elymus cinereus</i>	Trailhead, Washoe	Poor - Good	Dry	N
wildrye, Canada	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Mandan	Average - Good		N
Biennial or short-lived perennial					
ryegrass	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	As nurse or cover crop			I
Forbs / Legumes²					
alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>		Marginal - Fair		I
birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Leo, Empire	Average - Good		I
clover, red	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>		Marginal - Good		I
clover, white	<i>Trifolium repens</i>		Marginal - Good		I
flax, Lewis	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Appar, Maple Grove	Marginal - Fair		N
sweetclover, yellow or white	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> , <i>M. alba</i>		Marginal - Good		I

¹Range of acid tolerance from NRCS, MSU, farmer trial, and seed vendor resources.

²N fixation is greatly reduced in soils with pH below 5.5. Plants may need fertilizer N in low N soils.